

**My Prayer for You:
Spiritual Power for Spiritual Growth**
Ephesians 3:14-21

1



2

3 Theme

In light of God's divine plan for the church, believers must ask **God the Father** for the **Holy Spirit's power** to grow in **Christ-likeness**.

Ephesians 3:14

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father (ESV)

4

"Mystery" = Something that had been previously hidden, but is now revealed.

5

Ephesians 3:1

For this cause I, Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles...

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles... (ESV)

6

Chapter 2

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Verse 1: “For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles...”

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Verse 14: “For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”

7

8 Ephesians 3:14-21

I. God has a divine plan for the church (Eph 2:1-22)
 A. A plan for reconciliation through Christ (vv. 1-10)

BEFORE

- We were dead in trespasses and sins (v.1)
- We walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience (v. 2)
- We had lustful lifestyles (“conversation”), fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind (v. 3)
- We were by nature the children of wrath (v.3)

9

AFTER

- God has made us alive (“quickened”) together with Christ (v. 5)
- He has raised us up with Christ (v. 6)
- He has seated us in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (v. 6)
- He has saved us by grace through faith (v. 8)
- He created us in Christ Jesus for good works...that we should walk in them (v. 10)

10

11 Ephesians 3:14-21

I. God has a divine plan for the church (Eph 2:1-22)
 A. A plan for reconciliation through Christ (vv. 1-10)
 B. A plan for unity in Christ (vv. 11-22)

BEFORE

- We were “Gentiles in the flesh” (v. 11)
- We were separated from Christ, alienated from God’s covenant people, and strangers from the covenants of promise made to them (v. 12)
- We had no hope, and were without God in the world (v. 12)
- We were (once) far off from God (v. 13)

12

AFTER

- We (Gentiles) have been brought near by the blood of Christ (v. 13)
- Christ reconciled Jews and Gentiles to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (vv. 14-16)
- Christ preaches the same message of peace to both Jews and Gentiles (v. 17)
- Through Christ, both Jews and Gentiles have access by the same Holy Spirit to God the Father (v. 18)

13

AFTER

- Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners - we are fellow citizens with the saints, and members of the same household of God! (v. 19)
- The church, as a corporate body, is being built as the temple of God! (vv. 20-22)

14

Ephesians 2:20

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone;

15

Ephesians 2:21-22 (ESV)

In whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

16

17 **Ephesians 3:14-21**

I. God has a divine plan for the church (Eph 2:1-22)

- A. A plan for reconciliation through Christ (vv. 1-10)
- B. A plan for unity in Christ (vv. 11-22)

Chapter 2

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Verse 1: "For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles..."

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Verse 14: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"

18

19

Ephesians 3:14-21

- I. God has a divine plan for the church (Eph 2:1-22)
- II. Believers must ask God the Father for the Holy Spirit's power to grow in Christ-likeness (Eph 3:14-21)
 - A. We ask God to strengthen our inner man (vv. 14-16)

Ephesians 3:14

For this cause ("For this reason", ESV) I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

"bow my knees" = prayer

20

Ephesians 3:15

Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named

21

Ephesians 3:16

That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might ("power", ESV) by His Spirit in the inner man.

22

2 Cor 4:14 (ESV)

...He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence.

2 Cor 4:16 (ESV)

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

23

24

Ephesians 3:14-21

- II. Believers must ask God the Father for the Holy Spirit's power to grow in Christ-likeness (Eph 3:14-21)
 - A. We ask God to strengthen our inner man (vv. 14-16)
 - 1. That Christ may dwell in hearts by faith (v. 17a)

Ephesians 3:17a

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith...

“dwell” = be at home

25

After we trust Christ, our hearts need massive renovations!

Renovation “to-do” list can be found in Ephesians 4-6!

26

We need God’s help to obey His commands in Ephesians 4-6!

We need to ask God to strengthen our inner man, **so that Christ may dwell (i.e. be at home) in our hearts by faith!**

27

28 Ephesians 3:14-21

II. Believers must ask God the Father for the Holy Spirit’s power to grow in Christ-likeness (Eph 3:14-21)

A. We ask God to strengthen our inner man (vv. 14-16)

1. That Christ may dwell in hearts by faith (v. 17a)
2. That we become rooted and grounded in love (v. 17b)

Ephesians 3:17b

That ye, being rooted (i.e. like a plant) and grounded (i.e. established like a building) in love,

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31

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

32



33

Ephesians 3:14-21

II. Believers must ask God the Father for the Holy Spirit's power to grow in Christ-likeness (Eph 3:14-21)

A. We ask God to strengthen our inner man (vv. 14-16)

1. That Christ may dwell in hearts by faith (v. 17a)
2. That we become rooted and grounded in love (v. 17b)
3. That we have an ever-increasing comprehension of the immensity of Christ's love (vv. 18-19a)

34

Ephesians 3:18-19a

May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge...

35

Ephesians 3:14-21

3. That we have an ever-increasing comprehension of the immensity of Christ's love (vv. 18-19a)

a. We learn more about God's love through our salvation experience through Christ

- i. We observe it in our justification
- ii. We observe it in our progressive sanctification

36

Romans 6:6 (ESV)

We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, **so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.**

37

God loves us so much, He didn't just save us from hell, **He also rescued us from being slaves to our sinful desires!**

The more you grow in Christ, the more you will understand the greatness of His love for you.

38

Ephesians 3:14-21

3. That we have an ever-increasing comprehension of the immensity of Christ's love (vv. 18-19a)
 - a. We learn more about God's love through our salvation experience through Christ
 - i. We observe it in our justification
 - ii. We observe it in our progressive sanctification
 - b. We learn more about God's love together

39

Ephesians 3:18-19a

May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge...

40

We need the whole people of God to understand the whole love of God!

41

Ephesians 3:14-21

- b. We learn more about God's love together
 - i. We learn about God's love from each other's testimonies
 - ii. We learn about God's love by helping one another to grow in Christ

42

The more you grow in Christ, the more you will understand the greatness of His love for you.

**We are living stones -
every stone is important!**



43



DISCIPLESHIP MATTERS
要作主门徒

Am I **discipling others?**

- **Point** to the person of Christ
- **Partner** to mutually live God's truth
- **Pray** for each other's spiritual growth



45

46 Theme

In light of God's divine plan for the church, believers must **ask God the Father for the Holy Spirit's power to grow in Christ-likeness.**

Ephesians 3:16

That He would grant **you**, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might ("power", ESV) by His Spirit in the inner man.

47

**We pray for each other's spiritual growth.
We move together, forward for Christ!**

48

49

Ephesians 3:14-21

- A. We ask God to strengthen our inner man (vv. 14-16)
1. That Christ may dwell in hearts by faith (v. 17a)
 2. That we become rooted and grounded in love (v. 17b)
 3. That we have an ever-increasing comprehension of the immensity of Christ's love (vv. 18-19a)
 4. That we are filled with all the fullness of God (v. 19b)

Ephesians 4:11-13 (ESV)

And [God] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**

50

Ephesians 4:13

...to mature manhood (i.e. full spiritual maturity), to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

The standard of spiritual maturity is full Christ-likeness!

51

52

Ephesians 3:14-21

- A. We ask God to strengthen our inner man (vv. 14-16)
1. That Christ may dwell in hearts by faith (v. 17a)
 2. That we become rooted and grounded in love (v. 17b)
 3. That we have an ever-increasing comprehension of the immensity of Christ's love (vv. 18-19a)
 4. That we are filled with all the fullness of God (v. 19b)
- B. God is able to do far above all that we can ask or think (vv. 20-21)

Ephesians 3:20a

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think...

This promise is tied to a specific prayer: the prayer where **we ask God the Father for the Holy Spirit's power to grow in Christ-likeness.**

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Ephesians 3:21

Unto **HIM** be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

54

- I. God has a divine plan for the church (Eph 2:1-22)
 - A. A plan for reconciliation through Christ (vv. 1-10)
 - B. A plan for unity in Christ (vv. 11-22)
- II. Believers must ask God the Father for the Holy Spirit's power to grow in Christ-likeness (Eph 3:14-21)
 - A. We ask God to strengthen our inner man (vv. 14-16)
 1. That Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith (v. 17a)
 2. That we become rooted and grounded in love (v. 17b)
 3. That we have an ever-increasing comprehension of the immensity of Christ's love (vv. 18-19a)
 4. That we are filled with all the fullness of God (v. 19b)
 - B. God is able to do far above all that we can ask or think (vv. 20-21)

55

**Let's pray for our
brothers and sisters in Christ now!**

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Ephesians 3:14-21

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